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February 8, 1999 LB 17, 56

body. I would commend Senator Jensen for the excellent job he did in explaining an issue that is, for the uninitiated, somewhat complex. I would indicate to you that I support the committee amendment to LB 17 in the language that it is written It generally contains all of the policy issues that we had been able to identify and work out over time that was in the It brought in some issues in LB 56 that we had original LB 17. really considered that had been identified in one of our neighboring states as essential provisions for a bill of this type, and it also brings in Senator Chambers' bill for those who cannot afford to have copies of their medical records made, that those will be provided to them without any charge. Having said that, I would indicate to you that the bill itself met...bill as introduced met, to the best of my knowledge, the concerns of the healthcare professionals who were working in this area. dispute always surrounded how much a gatekeeper of medical records was allowed to charge for those records. many of the people who are in independent medical practice or in most of the hospitals in the state of Nebraska make no charge or no minimal charge for a patient's medical records to the extent that they need to have those. It seems to be that the problem, there is a problem, and I believe there is one, involves those people who are moving jobs or changing insurance carrier, changing employers or changing insurance carriers, and changing communities where the...either the hospital, the medical health practitioner, the employer, or the insurance company wishes to make sure that claims are made. ..that claims that have been made by the patient about his previous medical history are, in fact, accurate. You couple that with a growing, rapidly growing tendency of healthcare providers at all levels in the state of Nebraska to contract out the maintenance of the records as well as the billings, and then you have a third party involved who is in the business for money, to make a living. With all of that mind then, it was very difficult to find a fee structure that...that was supported by all of those involved and why this issue has not been passed in the last two sessions. Matter of fact, last session it was on Select File, on the consent calendar short list that we had at that time, and all of sudden several of the participants decided to disagree, after much, much...much, much negotiation, and I simply...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.